



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



POST TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed June 27, 2016, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day," a day to reflect on the causes, symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic stress injuries.

"The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being," the Governor's proclamation states.

"It is important that we ensure our heroes embrace their invisible wounds in a timely, confident manner, ultimately saving lives and preserving families," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "As Americans, we could not enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty without the service of these men and women fulfilling an extraordinary duty."

Zimmerman is encouraging everyone to help raise PTSD awareness. "Awareness of PTSD can be divided into three themes," said Zimmerman. "Learn, connect and share. Take the mystery out of PTSD by learning more about the invisible wounds and the treatments that are available. Reach out to someone and give support."

Help spread the word. Working together we can make a difference."



Learn

Connect

Share

PTSD AWARENESS • JUNE 2016

Inside this issue:

Benefit Briefing for the 153rd	2
Brown County Presents More Korean APMs	2
VABHCS Hero and Patriot Night	3
American Legion State Convention	4-5
Operation Engage America	5
Groundbreaking for SWO Veterans Cemetery	6
DOI Outreach	6
KWDH Conference	7-8
Upcoming Events	9

SDDVA'S BOWEN ADDRESSES 153RD

SDDVA's Kevin Bowen had the opportunity Saturday to brief members of the 153rd Engineer Battalion at the Sioux Falls National Guard Armory.

The 153rd is scheduled to deploy later this year and this briefing addressed benefits and reminded soldiers that are currently receiving VA benefits to notify the VA when they receive their orders.

Mike Lueck, Beadle/Sanborn County VSO, assisted with the briefing.



BROWN COUNTY PRESENTS MEDALS

Brown County VSO Aaron Walberg hosted another special ceremony to honor Korean War Veterans.

Walberg presented these heroes with their Korean Ambassador Peace Medals.

SDDVA's Kevin Swanson attended the event and had the opportunity to visit with these heroes one-on-one.





Welcome Home

Honoring Our Patriots

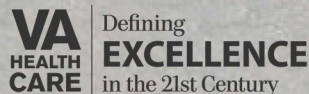
Please join us for Hero & Patriot Night in
recognition of our Veterans, Service
Members, and their Families.

Family Event

Live music
Refreshments
Family Activities
**Veteran Information &
Resource Exhibit**

Free Admission

Thursday August 4, 2016
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Downtown
Rapid City
Main Street Square



SD AMERICAN LEGION ELECTS FIRST FEMALE STATE COMMANDER

Charemon Dunham of Iroquois, was elected the first female State Commander of The American Legion Department of South Dakota by delegates attending the 98th Annual State Convention of The American Legion in Watertown on Sunday, June 19, 2016. Dunham was nominated by Past Department Commander Byron Callies of Watertown and her nomination was seconded by Hugh Holmes of Mitchell. The American Legion is the largest war-time veteran service organization in South Dakota with approximately 21,000 members serving in 240 local American Legion Posts across the state.

Commander Dunham is a 26-year, Paid-Up-For-Life member of Bensley-Rounds Post 280 of Iroquois. She has held most Post offices, including Post Commander from 1995-1997 and 2003-2005. She has served as Kingsbury County Commander, District Vice Commander, District 2 Commander and Department Vice Commander. She held the office of Department Historian in 1998-2008 and in 2012-2013. She served as National American Legion Historian in 2013-2014. She presently serves on the National American Legion 100th Anniversary Committee.

Charemon is a 2004 graduate of the National American Legion College. She has attended five National American Legion Leadership Information Conferences.

Commander Dunham is a United States Army Veteran who served from 1974-1976 attaining the rank of Specialist 4 and also from 1979-1990 attaining the rank of Captain.

Charemon graduated from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in 1979. She is an active member of the Esmond United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and Huron Area Tatters. She has two sisters, Selma and Annette, and a brother, Leo. Her mother passed away in 2015.

In other convention action, the assembled delegates elected two State Vice Commanders for the organization. Those elected were Ed Thompson of Hot Springs and Rich Ekle of Canton. Verle Whipple of Clear Lake was re-elected as the Department Sergeant-At-Arms.

Commander Dunham appointed Warren Aas of Watertown to a two-year appointment as Department Service Officer; Gene Renschler of Brandon to a one-year term as Department Membership Chairman; Dennis Brenden of Watertown to a one-year term as Public Relations Officer; Gary Wolkow of DeSmet to a two-year term as Department Finance Officer and Stan Gruneich of Dell Rapids to a one-year term as Department Chaplain. Gary Henle of Sioux Falls was elected to a four year term as a member of The American Legion State Finance Commission. Lanny Olson of Lake Preston was selected as The American Legion Department of South Dakota Legionnaire of the Year at the convention. Lanny is a member of Porter L. Rich Post 63 of Lake Preston.



Charemon Dunham

(continued on next page)

AMERICAN LEGION (CONTINUED)

A special highlight of the convention was a fun auction held on Saturday evening. John C. Green, artist, was in attendance with an original painting, donated by the artist, to raise funds for the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman assisted as a ring man at the fun auction.



Dale Barnett

National American Legion Commander Dale Barnett of the Department of Georgia was in attendance and addressed the delegates at the state convention. National American Legion Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser of the Department of Illinois also attended the convention. Other special guests at this year's American Legion convention included Senator John Thune, Congresswoman Krisi Noem, Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Larry Zimmerman, Director of the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center Darwin Goodspeed, Superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home Brad Richardson, First Veterans Court presiding Judge Robert Spears and many more guests.



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION ENGAGE AMERICA

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson and Interim Program Manager Kevin Bowen attended the Operation Engage America (OEA) Outreach program in Sioux City, IA, Saturday.

Bowen reports that there were ten vendors at the resource fair and there were approximately 75 veterans that attended.

Most of the focus of OEA was post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

Many of the veterans stopping by SDDVA's booth had questions about Iowa's benefits, but SDDVA's Bowen and Swanson were able to assist veterans with issues relating to federal benefits.



SISSETON-WAHPETON OYATE HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR VETERANS CEMETERY

This week tribal members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and state and community leaders gathered in Sisseton for the groundbreaking ceremony for their new Veterans Cemetery.

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe received a VA grant of \$3,393,509. The grant will fund the construction of the main entrance, a maintenance facility, road, an assembly area, a committal shelter, 99 preplaced crypts, 51 cremains gravesites, landscaping and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately six acres and serve 11,982 veterans and their families.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson attended the groundbreaking.



DOI CONDUCTS OUTREACH

Tuesday, the Department of Interior—Office of the Special Trustee held an outreach event in Rapid City to spread the word on the resources it offers to tribal members.

Of special interest, Tuesday was the federal land buyback program. The Department of the Interior has a \$1.9 billion fund to spend on such purchases throughout Indian Country.

SDDVA's Kevin Bowen was on hand to visit with veterans about the programs and services available to them.



ZIMMERMAN ADDRESSES KWDH CONFERENCE

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman traveled to Florida this week to address teachers and veterans attending the Korean War Digital History Conference.

Zimmerman served as one of the speakers Wednesday and shared the story of South Dakota's success to partner with the Republic of Korea to recognize our heroes. The key-note speaker Wednesday evening was Clifton Truman Daniel, the grandson of President Harry S. Truman. Truman is working on two books from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Secretary Zimmerman with South Dakota teachers at the conference.

Eighty teachers, representing twenty five states and Puerto Rico, attended the four day conference. Five of these teachers were from South Dakota. Jay Mickelson, the teacher from Riggs High School who sang the Korean National Anthem during our Korean Ambassador Peace Medal ceremony in January, was one of the South Dakota instructors attending.

Numerous teachers made presentations at the conference on various topics regarding the Korean War and how to improve classroom curriculum on the Korean War.

South Dakota's Mr. Mickelson sang the Korean National Anthem and then discussed the definition and meaning of the verse in English.

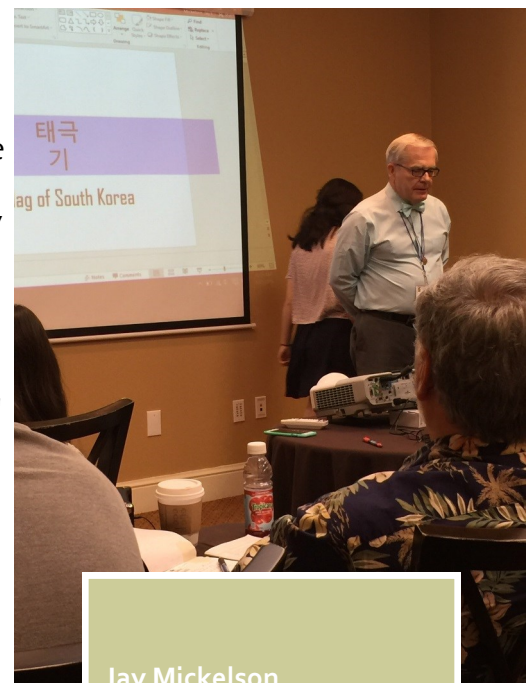
The Korean War Digital History Project, has strived to bring veterans and their stories into the classroom since its inception. The KWDH Project encourages teachers to get their students involved with interviewing veterans, analyzing primary sources, and performing service learning projects. To accomplish this goal, the KWDH Project hosts lesson plans, toolkits, and tutorials on its website.

The Korean War Digital History Project, has strived to bring veterans and their stories into the classroom since its inception. The KWDH Project encourages teachers to get their students involved with interviewing veterans, analyzing primary sources, and performing service learning projects. To accomplish this goal, the KWDH Project hosts lesson plans, toolkits, and tutorials on its website.

(continued on next page)



Secretary Zimmerman with Clifton Truman Daniel.



Jay Mickelson

KWDH CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)

The Korean War Veterans Youth Corps (KWVYC) was established in 2013 by the Korean War Veterans Digital Memorial Foundation in order to activate descendants of Korean War Veterans of all ages. It modeled the Peace Camp Program run by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of Republic of Korea, which hosts an annual conference for direct descendants of Korean War Veterans, who are college students from the 21 countries that participated in the Korean War. The fundamental mission of KWVYC is to keep the legacy of their own heroes alive. They sacrificed their lives and their youth to defeat communist attack and provided opportunities for the Republic of Korea to accomplish unprecedentedly rapid economic development and a strong democracy in less than half a century.

In conjunction with what the Korean War Legacy Foundation has achieved, members of KWVYC have educated themselves on the legacy of the Korean War through collecting both oral and artefactual histories of KWVs in their locals including their own grandparents. The ultimate goal of KWVYC is to maintain the KWV community beyond their own generations, and contribute to the Korean War Legacy Foundation in its effort to create enduring educational infrastructure for the Korean War legacy for future generations to come.

Secretary Zimmerman noted that many Florida Korean Veterans attended the conference and participated in the interview process to help the teachers understand the process.



Florida Korean War Veterans

Secretary Zimmerman noted that many Florida Korean Veterans attended the conference and participated in the interview process to help the teachers understand the process.

Secretary Zimmerman said, "this conference is a fantastic opportunity for veterans to share and teachers to learn."

KWLF President Jongwoo Han and National Committee of Social Studies incoming President Terry Cherry sign MOU to bring more history of Korean War into social studies for students.

Representatives of the KWDH will be in South Dakota in August and will be interviewing over 70 Korean War Veterans in Pierre, Sioux Falls, and Hot Springs.

Secretary Zimmerman noted that they are considering bringing the conference to South Dakota in 2017.



KWLF President Jongwoo Han (left) signing MOU with Terry Cherry, president of National Committee of Social Studies.

Upcoming Events

Jun. 29—Black Hills Veterans Job Fair—Central States Fair Grounds (915 Centre Street) - 11:00 am (MT)
 Jul. 1—Buffalo Chip Annual Flag Raising Ceremony—West Gate Entrance off Ft. Meade Way—6:00 pm (MT)
 Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
 Jul. 13—SD Veterans Council—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
 Jul. 23-24—Sioux Falls Air Show
 Aug 4—VABHHCS Hero and Patriot Night—Main Street Square—Rapid City—6:00—9:00 pm (MT)
 Aug. 22-25—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre Ramkota
 Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)

2017

Feb 10-12—SD American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 15-18—SD American Legion State Conference—Watertown



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
 Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501
 Phone: 605-773-8242
 E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

